

Community Concerns Directly Related to Special Education Policy 5310

Parents are concerned the changes to the policy do not adhere to state and Federal laws with the IEP process

- Parents are concerned that the policy changes do not include a Prior Written Notice. A PWN is required after the school proposal BEFORE the parent is asked to sign the amendment.
- Per VA regulations, SEAC is to review and make recommendations on policy that impacts the special education community prior to being submitted to the school board. Administration is working to bypass SEAC and the voice of the special education community.
- Parents are requesting that the exact regulations pertaining to the IEP process be included in the policy regarding parent approval for amending an IEP without convening for an IEP meeting.
- Parents fear the wording of the policy is a breach of civil rights.
- Parents need to be given written notice of all changes and sufficient time to review it before approving any such amendment
- Many parents already do not understand their rights pertaining to the IEP process or have other hurdles such as language barriers and this change will further that divide.
- There is concern about using the term “may”. Parents have expressed concern and would like the term removed from the policy.

Parents fear the proposed changes are removing parent involvement and the ability to advocate for their child.

- Parents fear that the wording of the proposed changes allow LCPS to make changes to their child’s IEP unilaterally and not include the parents input or consent.
- Parents fear that the wording of the proposed changes not only allows LCPS to make changes without parent input or consent, but only provides the parent the changes AFTER parent requests.
- Parents are concerned about the language shifting between “LCPS” and “IEP Team”. LCPS is not defined on who that is. LCPS cannot create amendments but IEP teams can.
- Parents are concerned that the proposed changes leave parents in a less optimal and possibly less equitable position of advocacy.
- Parents are concerned about predetermination if LCPS is going to “let the team know”

- Parents have voiced concerns over their written input not being included in the parent concern section of their child's IEP. They have been told that their concerns will be placed in another file that is not included directly in the IEP or their concerns have been summarized and changed before being included. Parents feel that this is an effort by LCPS to silence the parent voice.
- Parents are also concerned that if "any parent who doesn't go along with whatever LCPS proposes, is viewed as "difficult" and things are dragged out."

Parents are concerned the proposed changes to Policy 5310 are due to Temporary Distance Learning Plans

- Parents do not feel that TDLPs were a collaborative document
- Parents have requested that changes are not made at this time due to the amount of amendments being made moving forward as students IEPs are needing modifications due to distance learning or because regressions have occurred during this time.
- Parents are concerned as to the timing of the proposed changes or why changes are being proposed when this same policy was recently updated. Parents want to know the reasoning behind this. I think an explanation would help people understand why without automatically assuming it's for nefarious reasons.